TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 20, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 15 totaled an estimated 16.9 billion ton-miles, 0.7 percent above the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first seven weeks of 1986 was an estimated 117.2 billion ton-miles, up 5.0 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 15 totaled 365,320, up 2.4 percent from last year, but 3.5 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 12.8 percent in the East, and 1.7 percent in the South, but down 2.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 11 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, coal loadings were up 9,481 cars (9.8 percent) and loadings of motor vehicles and equipment posted a gain of 2,406 cars (11.8 percent). Thirteen of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 8 totaled 98,401 trailers and/or containers, 16.5 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first six weeks of the year was 539,059 trailers and/or containers, up 14.8 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/15/86:

	Loadings in Week ended February 15, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,174	D	1,101	4.5	D	1,424	5.8
Other farm products	2,909	D	734	20.1	D	788	21.3
Metallic ores	11,399	D	1,199	9.5	D	501	4.2
Coal	106,248	I	9,481	9.8	D	8,301	7.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	8,833	I	571	6.9	D	1,019	10.3
Nonmetallic minerals	9,525	D	1,909	16.7	I	850	9.8
Grain mill products	10,892	D	408	3.6	D	40	0.4
Food and kindred products	10,875	D	310	2.8	D	46	0.4
Primary forest products	10,909	D	1,648	13.1	D	571	5.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,403	I	409	5.8	I	171	2.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,497	D	1,353	9.1	D	55	0.4
Chemicals and allied products	24,914	I	297	1.2	I	950	4.0
Petroleum products	5,168	I	394	8.3	I	356	7.4
Stone, clay and glass products	8,525	D	427	4.8	D	218	2.5
Coke	5,002	I	101	2.1	I	523	11.7
Metals and products	8,004	D	247	3.0	I	353	4.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,851	I	2,406	11.8	I	116	0.5
Waste and scrap materials	8,713	I	1	0.0	D	232	2.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	5,764	D	926	13.8	I	142	2.5
All other carloads	60,580	I	5,241	9.5	D	3,425	5.4
LCL traffic	135	I	1	0.7	D	9	6.3
Total Cars Loaded	365,320	I	8,640	2.4	D	13,168	3.5
Corresponding week of 1985	356,680						

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (7 weeks)	2,525,620	2,402,674	I 5.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
6 Weeks ended February 8	100.4	94.9	I 5.7
Week ended February 15	16.9	16.8	I 0.7
7 weeks cumulative	117.2	111.7	I 5.0

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